

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a worklight having a housing including an interior portion for holding a light source, said housing presenting at least one exterior surface and said light source operating at a temperature raising said at least one exterior surface to a temperature that is hot to human touch during normal operation of the worklight, the improvement comprising: a thermochromic substance in thermal communication with at least a portion of said at least one exterior surface, said thermochromic substance being disposed in a readily visible location and being formulated to undergo a conspicuous color change in response to heat from said at least one exterior surface during normal operation of said worklight, said conspicuous color change providing an indication that said at least one exterior surface is of a temperature hot to human touch.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a substrate wherein said thermochromic substance is carried on said substrate, and said substrate is disposed with respect to said at least one exterior surface so as to place said thermochromic substance in thermal communication with at least a portion thereof.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising warning indicia carried on said substrate, and wherein said thermochromic substance is carried on said substrate so as to cover said indicia, wherein said thermochromic substance is normally substantially opaque at room temperature so as to substantially obscure said indicia and turns transparent in response to said heat from said at least one exterior surface so as to expose said indicia.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said substrate is transparent, and said thermochromic substance and said indicia are carried on the underside of said substrate, whereby said substrate provides a protective covering for said thermochromic substance and indicia.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said thermochromic substance forms a layer on the underside of said substrate, said indicia are applied to the underside of said layer, and said substrate with said thermochromic layer and indicia are adhered in position at said at least one exterior surface with the undersides thereof directed toward said at least one exterior surface.

6. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising warning indicia carried on said substrate, and wherein

    said indicia are formed of said thermochromic substance, and said thermochromic substance is normally transparent at room temperature and turns substantially opaque in response to said heat from said at least one exterior surface so as to expose said indicia.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said substrate is transparent, and said indicia formed of said thermochromic substance are carried on the underside of said substrate.

8. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a thermal moderator disposed between said thermochromic substance and said at least one exterior surface, whereby said thermochromic substance is in thermal communication with said at least one exterior surface through said thermal moderator.

9. In a worklight having a housing including an interior portion for holding a light source, said housing presenting at least one exterior surface and said light source operating at a temperature raising said at least one exterior surface to a temperature that is hot to human touch during normal operation of the worklight, the improvement comprising:  
    a transparent protective covering disposed in a readily visible location at said at least one exterior surface;  
    a thermochromic substance disposed between said transparent protective covering and said at least one exterior surface; and  
    a thermal moderator disposed between said thermochromic substance and said at least one exterior surface;

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wherein said thermochromic substance is in thermal communication with at least a portion of said at least one exterior surface through said thermal moderator and is formulated to undergo a conspicuous color change in response to heat from said at least one exterior surface during normal operation of said worklight, said *revealing* conspicuous color change providing an indication that said at least one exterior surface is of a temperature hot to human touch.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising warning indicia formed of said thermochromic substance, wherein said thermochromic substance is normally transparent at room temperature and turns substantially opaque in response to said heat from said at least one exterior surface so as to expose said indicia.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising warning indicia, wherein said thermochromic substance is disposed so as to cover said indicia, wherein said thermochromic substance is normally substantially opaque at room temperature so as to substantially obscure said indicia and turns transparent in response to said heat from said at least one exterior surface so as to expose said indicia.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said at least one exterior surface is formed with a recessed area sized to receive said transparent protective covering, said thermochromic substance, and said thermal moderator such that the outer surface of said transparent protective covering is substantially flush with said at least one exterior surface.

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